

English Translation of the Friday Sermon of 10th July 1992 Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV

The case of those who spend their wealth to seek the pleasure of Allah and to reinvigorate their own souls is like the case of a garden on a hillock upon which falls heavy rain so that it brings forth its fruit twofold. If heavy rain does not fall on it is watered by a drizzle. For Allah sees that which you do.

The Holy Quran. Al Baqarah [The Heifer]: 266.

One financial year of the Jamaat has come to an end on 30th June 1992, and another financial year has started on 1st July, 1992.

I am going to put before you the facts and figures of our last year's income. For some schemes our financial year starts at different times. For instance, Tehrik e Jadid's financial year started on 1st October 1991.

Waqf e Jadid's financial year started on 1st January 1992. But in order to give you the total income of a year, the income of these schemes has been taken as a year's income irrespective of the starting date of the financial year.

Before going any further, I would like to give a brief explanation of the verse quoted.

God says the case of those people who spend their wealth to seek the pleasure of Allah needs reflection. Here the word pleasure is not singular but it is used as plural, which denotes that they spend their wealth in various ways, hoping that perhaps one of these ways may prove effective in winning the pleasure of Allah.

The other objective of spending their wealth is to reinvigorate their souls. They become steadfast and resolute in their offering. Their case is like the case of a garden which is situated on a hillock. It receives heavy rain which does not do it any harm because the extra water runs down the hill quickly and causes no damage. Wherefore it bears its fruit twofold. If it does not have heavy rain a light drizzle or even dew-drops suffice and it becomes fruitful.

In this verse, only two objectives are mentioned. One is seeking the pleasure of Allah and the other is to fortify and strengthen their souls.

At another place God says that the believers are those 'who spend in His way in prosperity and in adversity'.¹ These two objectives are inter-related and are worthy of being rewarded by God.

God says:

The similitude of those who spend their wealth for the cause of Allah is like the similitude of a grain of corn which grows seven ears with each ear bearing a hundred grains. Then Allah multiplies further for whomsoever He pleases; for Allah is Bountiful, All-Knowing.²

When I pondered on this verse and compared the amount of financial offering made during the time of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) with the amounts which the Jamaat is paying now, I noticed that it had gone beyond 700-fold. This garden is bringing forth its fruit even beyond 700 times.

Among his companions, those who contributed even two pennies at the time of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him), were some who hardly had anything for their sustenance. If you trace their children today, you will be surprised to find that among them, some are so well off and rich that even one of them, single-handed, can contribute more than the total Chanda of the whole Jamaat that was paid during the time of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

Hark! Even if they pay all their possessions and wealth, they cannot attain that lofty and high status of sacrifice which their forefathers earned by paying two pennies during the time of the Promised Messiah. They earned the pleasure of God by responding to the call of the Promised Messiah.

A grain of corn which produces 700 grains is unique in its position and potential which cannot be overlooked and ignored. The grain which produces 700 grains and God multiplied it exceedingly is the source of all these blessings.

Those who are making financial sacrifices today and whose contributions have made it a huge figure, must always remember their forefathers, because their contribution is the fruit of that grain which their forefathers sowed in the ground and it flourished.

One is stunned to note that within a period of 100 years there has emerged a Jamaat whose financial contribution has reached such a high peak.

By the grace of God, the Jamaat's contribution in obligatory Chandas (Chanda Aam, Wassiyyat and Jalsa Salana, is £5190888 which if converted into Pakistani Rupees come to the tune of Rs.246190380.

During the time of the Promised Messiah, the collection in a year never went beyond some thousands, but now the Jamaat's contribution is Rs.246192380.

In addition to this, in other schemes, such as Tehrik e Jadid, Waqf e Jadid, and Sad Sala Jubilee Fund for India, the contribution is INR.1960000 which is Rs.92888851 in Pakistani rupees. Apart from this, the contribution in charities, Zakat, Eid Fund, Fitran etc. is £135742 which is in Rs.6430098 in Pakistani rupees.

In 1953, when an agitation was started against the Jamaat, the annual budget of the Jamaat amounted to about Rs.2500000 (Rs.2.5 million rupees). An opponent of the Jamaat admitted with remorse and sorrow that they had failed against the Ahmadiyya Jamaat and that the Ahmadiyya Community was offering a huge amount of Rs2500000 every year. Today, far beyond the expectation of the opponents, the Jamaat is marching forward in each respect. According to an overall estimate, the total amount of contribution has reached nearly Rs.440000000 (Rs.400000000).

When God made me responsible for the Caliphate, I had announced in one of my sermons that after each trial and opposition, the Jamaat has emerged victorious and marches forward. If we were contributing thousands before the agitation, then afterwards, we were contributing in hundreds of thousands. We were paying hundreds of thousands when after another opposition and persecution, the Jamaat's contribution increased correspondingly and reached into many tens of millions.

The figures which are available, consist of the forty-four Jamaats of the world. There are Jamaats in 126 countries but in some countries the Jamaats are new and their system of contribution is not organized. It will take some time to establish it in a systematic way. Eventually, they will become a part of this system and the contributions will increase.

As far as contrast between countries is concerned, apart from Pakistan, there are fifteen countries which are in the forefront. By looking at their contribution, you will be amazed at the pace and speed with which they are increasing and expanding their scope of financial sacrifices.

Germany stands at the top of all. In one year, its contribution amounts to £1052797 (Rs.49870000). A few years back, all the Jamaats of the world could not together pay such an amount. If you go ten or fifteen years back, you will be astonished at the high level of sacrifice which the Jamaat Germany has gained within so short a period.

America is second and making rapid progress. The American Jamaat is strengthening its financial system and although they are a way back from Germany, they can prove a challenge to them. The American contribution is £501930. One is amazed at the change which has taken place in the American Jamaat. Fourteen or fifteen years back, the American Jamaat was dependent on aid from outside. Today, by the grace of God, America is in a position to help other Jamaats which are still meager in their financial resources. The UK stands third, but is close at America's heels. Its contribution is £488575. If they strive a bit more, they can surpass the Americans.

Indonesia has been doing well in the last few years. Their position is fourth and they have paid £310497. Canada is fifth and has contributed £285563. Ghana stands sixth by paying £71832.00. The Ghanian Jamaats must be remembered in special prayers. It is a

poor country which was once called the Gold Coast. Though poor, they are endowed with a high spirit of sacrifice. They are open-minded, sincere and full of love for Ahmadiyya.

The Mauritius Jamaat is very active and they have contributed £71639 and are seventh in rank. India comes next. India, in the past, had receded in its progress but recently, an awakening is taking place. God-willing the Indian Jamaat will soon regain its front position.

We have special regard and love for Qadian. This is a place where the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) was born. A place from where the message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat was spread.

Norway is also a very promising Jamaat. It stands ninth in merit. Japan is tenth. Switzerland is eleventh. Bangladesh is twelfth and Sweden is thirteenth. Nigeria is fourteenth. Potentially, Nigeria is a rich country. Nigerian Ahmadis are richer than those in Ghana and other African countries. The Nigerian Jamaat must see that it keeps its pace and tries to excel others in its financial pursuit. Holland comes fifteenth. Holland, like other European Jamaats is very energetic and sincere in its contribution.

There are many individuals in America who are so well off that if they contribute according to their means, they can bring America to the front row.

In this connection, a salient feature is that if you want to cause an increment in Chandas, it is absolutely essential that you should first try to inculcate sincerity and love and faith in God for His cause. Along with the financial system, we must strengthen our system of education and training. Training and education of the tenets of Islam, love of God, communion with Him and observing of prayers are the factors which are basically needed to enhance the efficiency of the financial system. They must go hand in hand with the financial system.

When a person establishes communion with God, and the heart is full of His love, they naturally feel a desire to spend in the way of God so as to win the pleasure of the Creator. It must be remembered that if you want to strengthen the financial system, you must see that you try to strengthen the ties of men with God.

The third thing which is, in fact, the backbone of this system is honesty. If honesty and integrity are nonexistent, no financial system can work. It is doomed to failure. If you lose the confidence and trust of the people, you cannot succeed. You must restore the confidence of the people. If they know that those whom they are handing over their money to are trustworthy and honest and that their contributions will not go to waste, they will not hesitate to contribute with an open hand.

The secret of the success of the Jamaat lies in honesty. In order to maintain this standard, our audit system must function along with it. It helps to eliminate the chances of

misappropriation in the financial system.

By the grace of God, there are millions of Ahmadis all over the world who are paying their Chandas regularly but there is seldom any complaint by anyone that his Chanda has been misappropriated. The Jamaat must keep the standard of honesty high. If it slackens, there is no guarantee of its security and success.

We must always continue praying to God to enable us to keep our standard of honesty high and to strengthen our resolve to serve His cause by sacrificing everything for Him.

May God strengthen our financial system on a sound basis and bless it. Amen.

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